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6,000 NEW JOBS TO COME FROM AIRPORT PLAN

By Pat Higgins

southend@yellowad.co.uk

PROPOSALS have been approved for a new business park near Southend Airport to generate 6,000 jobs.

A government inspector gave the green light to plans from Southend and Rochford Councils, which will also bring a further 1,000 jobs directly related to the airport, this week.

The Inspector approved the proposals after examining a list of modifications put forward by the two authorities in response to feedback from stakeholders. Now work could start on construction in 2016.

The plan includes policies for developing the airport and new business space, together with environmental enhancements, transport improvements and regeneration proposals.

Now that the inspector has given

the go-ahead to the plan – known formally as the London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) – both councils can now put it forward for formal adoption.

Earlier this month, Southend Council announced it had selected Henry Boot Developments as its preferred joint development partner.

The authorities are now working with Henry Boot to devise a master plan for the area, hoping to submit an outline planning application in the spring.

Ron Woodley, leader of Southend Council, said: "Our proposals with Rochford are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to boost both economies by attracting investment and creating much-needed jobs. We are pleased that the inspector has given this approval so we can press ahead with our plans.

"This is a golden opportunity for

the borough, and we will also be working to ensure our policies reflect the skills required and give our young people opportunity to fill these new jobs that will be created."

Keith Hudson, Deputy Leader of Rochford Council and joint chairman of the JAAP committee, said: "It's taken many years to get to this point, and now the inspector has found our plans to be sound, subject to formal adoption by both councils, we can now begin to get the wheels in motion.

"These proposals should create at least 7,000 jobs for the local economy and have already been instrumental in securing funding for improvements to the A127 through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP).

"I hope we can now move forward quickly and see the economic growth that is much needed and will benefit our society."

The facts...

- December 8 – JAAP committee meeting to discuss the way forward
- December 9 – Southend Council's cabinet to consider agreeing to adopt plan
- December 11 – Southend Council's place scrutiny committee to scrutinise plan
- December 11 – Southend Council's full council to consider formal adoption of plan
- December 16 – Rochford Council full council meeting to consider formal adoption of plan
- Spring 2015 – Subject to the necessary adoption, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, as developer, to submit an outline planning application to Rochford District Council
- 2016 – proposed start on site

Appeal to unknown victims of paedophile

POLICE believe a serial paedophile may have abused children in care homes across Essex and London.

The Metropolitan Police's child abuse unit has appealed for victims to come forward and report attacks by John Cowan, 72, of Littlebourne in Lewisham.

Cowan – known by the nickname 'Jock' – was jailed for eight years last week over historic child sex abuse.

He committed the offences while working at an Ealing children's home, but lived in Chelmsford at the time of the attacks.

Police said he had worked in care homes around the country, including Essex, and it was 'highly likely' that there were more victims yet to report their abuse.

Jurors convicted Cowan after hearing he had 24 prior convictions for child sex abuse.

In 1994 he was jailed for 12-and-a-half years over 16 child sex abuse charges and ordered to sign the Sex Offenders Register for life.

He worked as a house father at the

Ealing home for two years between 1971 and 1973, while living in Essex.

His offending there came to light in January 2013, when a woman attended Shepherds Bush police station to report having been sexually assaulted when she was seven or eight years old.

She told police Cowan had abused her in the attic at the children's home.

A police probe uncovered five more victims.

Cowan abused five girls aged between five and ten, and one boy, who was six years old.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "The male victim described how on more than one occasion Cowan had taken him from his bed, saying the boy needed the toilet. Once inside the bathroom, Cowan sexually assaulted him."

Cowan was arrested in July 2013. He was jailed last Thursday at Harrow Crown Court for ten counts of historic indecent assault and one count of gross indecency.

Investigating officer DC Cathy

Hewitson, from the Met's Child Abuse Investigation Team in Northwood, said: "Cowan took advantage of his senior position at the home to abuse a number of vulnerable children, the majority of whom had already suffered heartache and trauma in their short lives and should have been in a trusted environment. I praise the courage of the victims in coming forward and reliving this very difficult period in their lives, forced to give evidence in open court by Cowan's refusal to admit his crimes."

"Cowan worked in a number of children's homes in Essex, London and Scotland from the 1970s onwards. It is highly likely there are other victims out there who perhaps have felt too scared to come forward before or thought there was little point given the passage of time. This conviction proves it is not too late to bring Cowan to justice and I would ask anyone with information to contact us in confidence."

Anyone with information can con-



John Cowan molested children while living in Chelmsford

tact the Child Abuse Investigation Team on 0208 246 1901 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Former library to be business hub

WORK has started on a major project to transform the second and third floors of Southend's former library into a business incubation hub.

Southend Council has appointed local contractor A.W Hardy & Co to carry out the work, which includes building an initial nine flexible incubation units, at least 34 hot desks and shared meeting and conference space.

Contractors are hoping to get all of the construction work completed before next spring.

The £651,325 for the project is coming from a grant the council successfully secured from central Government's City Deal Fund last

year.

Executive councillor for enterprise tourism and economic regeneration, Graham Longley, said the town had an encouragingly high business start up rate.

Mr Longley said: "The new incubation hub will provide flexible space at reasonable rates for these fledgling businesses, and will nurture them with the right environment and support to give them every chance of becoming the major employers of tomorrow.

"Furthermore, as they grow, these businesses may wish to move into the new commercial space we have planned at the Airport Business Park

as part of our Joint Area Action Plan with Rochford District Council.

"Southend has an amazing entrepreneurial spirit, enviable connections to our capital and a growing number of European destinations via our international airport.

"It's a great place to work, live and play and we will not be shy on selling this unique proposition to attract entrepreneurs, both home grown and from further afield, with the courage and vision to become part of our town's unfolding renaissance." This is the second phase of work to redevelop the former library.

The first phase involved converting the basement, ground

floor and first floors into gallery spaces to house the Beecroft Art Collection.

Space at the Incubation Hub will be very flexible, offering opportunities for hot-desking up to renting more formal office space.

The council's "Business Southend" team will also be relocating to the Incubation Hub, it will offer unrivalled access to business support services."

Anyone interested in finding out more about space at the Incubation Hub should contact the economic development team on economic@southend.gov.uk or call 01702 215022.

► speedread

● SOUTHEND Libraries are turning to digital technology and social media to make a unique Great War newspaper for library users.

As part of Southend Council's programme of Great War commemorative events, libraries have digitised copies of every edition of the Southend and Westcliff Graphic newspaper for anyone to view free of charge.

For further details and to book a visit to view the Local Studies collection and local newspapers, please contact the Forum User Support Officers at forumusersupport@southend.gov.uk or phone 01702 534128.

● FOOD businesses in the Borough are being offered support by the Council to prepare for new rules aimed at protecting allergy sufferers.

Currently, when supermarket bakeries, delis, cafes and restaurants sell loose food, they don't have to provide information to customers about food allergens.

However, from Thursday, December 13, all food businesses will need to verbally explain or signpost allergenic information for food they are selling.

New rules mean all food businesses will need to inform customers if any of the 14 allergenic ingredients are in the food they serve.

Easy to understand information is available on <http://www.food.gov.uk/science/allergy-intolerance>

● SOUTHEND Council has called a special meeting to review the performance of train operator Abellio Greater Anglia and its proposals for improving services.

At the meeting that will be held on Thursday, December 4, Abellio Greater Anglia's head of corporate affairs, Jonathan Denby and stakeholder manager, Paul Oxley, will present an update on their franchise and outline their future plans.

This will be followed by a period for councillors to ask any questions.

If anyone would like to put forward a question email clrfewitt@southend.gov.uk

The meeting will be held at 7pm in the Seacole Room, the Tickfield Centre, Tickfield Industrial Centre, Tickfield Avenue, Southend.

Women's Institute baton reaches Southend

CENTENARY celebrations for the Women's Institute (WI) came to Southend last Friday.

The celebrations came in the form of a baton that has been travelling the country since the beginning of the year.

It was launched from Anglesey where the first WI meeting was held in 1915.

The baton has travelled throughout the country and hit Essex last week, it will complete its journey at the WI's centenary meeting in June 2015 at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

The design of the baton enables each federation of the WI to upload 12 selected photos to a memory stick stored in it to represent their members and local area.

Photos will then be shared on social media to keep everyone in touch and follow its progress across the country.

Sue MacEwen, from the Essex Federation said it was exciting to be part of the first centenary project to celebrate WI.

She said: "We hope to see as many members at the events as possible, to celebrate that it offers the chance to learn new skills, campaign on issues that are important to us at every level, and make life-long friends.

What do you think? Write to Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk



CENTENARY: Some of the Women's Institute members who walked to the end of the Southend pier

Photo by Mark Cleveland

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Ofsted joy for nursery at hospital

A NURSERY run and managed by Southend Hospital has been rated as good in an Ofsted report.

Ladybird Nursery, based in a converted house next to the hospital, is open all year and provides childcare, learning and play for 90 children, aged three months to four.

Lynda Bartholomew, nursery manager, said she was thrilled for staff and parents of children.

She said: "We have a dedicated and committed team here, so it is great to see all of our efforts recognised in this way."

In the report inspectors said children and babies make good progress in their learning and development because staff

use effective teaching strategies and plan interesting activities that cover each area of learning.

Inspectors added: "Safeguarding procedures are robust and rigorous and promote the safety and welfare of children that attend."

"Children and babies develop strong bonds with their key person and, as a result, they make secure emotional attachments that promote their well being."

"Positive and well established relationships between staff and parents, external agencies and local schools ensures that children's individual needs are fully understood and effectively met."



DEDICATED: Children and staff at Ladybird Nursery, run by Southend Hospital, celebrate their good Ofsted report



FUNDRAISERS: Lucy Martin, Stephanie Hadden and Catherine Hodgson
Photo by Mark Cleveland

Candlelight supper to raise cash for homeless

SOUTHEND'S Homeless Action Resource Project (HARP) will be holding a fundraising candlelight supper.

It includes the meal, cheese and biscuits, a raffle and music.

Lucy Martin, fundraising manager, said: "Our support for the homeless is vital at this time of year.

"The candlelight supper is an

opportunity for us to get together with our supporters to show homeless people that we care."

The supper will be held at St Augustine's Church, St Augustine's Avenue, Thorpe Bay, between 7.30pm and 10.30pm, on Friday.

Tickets, priced £20, are available by calling 01702 415834 or via www.harpssouthend.org.uk.

► speedread

- POLICE are appealing for information following a burglary at a convenience store in Southend.

The Premier Store in West Road, was broken into at about 1.40am on Friday, November 7, after the shop window was smashed.

Cigarettes, alcohol and cash, as well as the cash till were stolen in the raid.

The haul was worth a five-figure sum.

Anyone with information should call PC Darren Hagon at Southend Police Station on 101.

- AN exhibition of stunning wildlife photography has gone on display in The Forum, Southend.

After 35 years of practising photography, and 10 years judging camera club competitions, Tim Mears has an eye for detail which brings wildlife a bit closer to people's everyday lives.

The exhibition is open between 8am and 10pm at The Forum, Elmer Square, Southend.

- SOUTHEND Council is appealing to people to donate toys so it can give them to children as gifts this Christmas.

Toys are being collected for boys and girls aged between two and 17.

Ideally the toys will not be battery-operated and vouchers instead of toys will also be accepted.

For further information call 01702 534923.

- SOUTHEND Operatic and Dramatic Society is looking for eight children to feature in a production of Carousel next year.

The performance will take place at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff, between April 15 and 18.

For more information contact Paul Alton at paul.alton@icloud.com.

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VOUCHERS: Staff at Wilkinson - Susan Haagman, store manager James Biffen, and Richard Miles
Photo by Mark Cleveland

Wilko joins Helping Hands scheme

STAFF at the Wilko store in Southend are offering a helping hand to community groups and charities in the area that need extra support this festive season.

The store, in Victoria Circus Shopping Centre, is appealing to anyone who is passionate about their local community to get involved and apply for the Helping Hands fund.

People living in the town can

apply for a gift card donation or Wilko products to help them with their project.

James Biffen, store manager, explained the Helping Hands scheme is about supporting local projects that directly benefit the lives of people who live and work close to the store.

He said: "We'd like to hear from anyone who's keen to make a difference in Southend,

whether it's a school that needs arts and crafts supplies or a dog's home that needs extra food and treats over the winter months, we want to help."

Application forms can be collected from the store and once completed, returned to the help desk.

Successful applicants will be notified within three months of submission.

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Community heroes

SOUTHEND YMCA has celebrated the achievements of young people.

Youth Awards were presented to young people who took part in projects and overcome challenging backgrounds.

Winners were presented with their trophies by Southend YMCA staff at the Park View Suite, Chalkwell Park.

The awards also saw the launch of a new magazine Voice of Youth (VOYCE) which was created by 10 young people on the Youth Exchange project.

Awards organiser Jane Dolby said: "We help more than 2,000 young people a year rebuild confidence, overcome trauma and make new friends through our arts and sports projects and education provision.

"We house around 30 young people who may be homeless without our support, offer CV and confidence building opportunities to unemployed young people and even have an annual



Jane Dolby presents the Community Impact Award to Kelsey Hibberd

trip to France to work on multi-cultural arts related projects.

"All our projects are freely available and we want to be able to help as many young people as possible.

"Bullying, unemployment, poverty, mental health challenges and abuse know no boundaries and can affect children from any background and any area.

We are here to help and sup-

port any youngster who needs us."

Chief executive of Southend YMCA Syrie Cox, who could not attend the event because she was in Europe working on the development of a new cultural program, said the organisation was always striving to engage young people.

She said: "We want to help those young people who may not have had the easiest of starts, but with support and encouragement go on to become happy fulfilled adults and belong, contribute and thrive."

The event marked the 70th birthday of Ron Wright, who was presented with a special award for his lifetime's service to improving the lives of young people. It also celebrated the 89th birthday of Gerald Melish, one of Southend YMCA's founders. For more information about Southend YMCA visit www.southendymca.org.uk or call 01702 301301.

Keith Hadden presents the Beki Ali Award to Charley Bonham-Dare and Carl Bird from Southend Vocational College

- **Community Impact Award:** Kelsey Hibberd, 20, Cheapside West, Rayleigh.
- **Youth, Arts and Culture Award** – Alicia Caines, 15, Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff.
- **Learning and Participation Award** – Molly Shurben-Hayes, 17, Glenwood Avenue, Westcliff.
- **Young Volunteer Award** – Rachel Manning, 18, Common Road, Great Wakering.
- **Young Fundraiser Award** – Michael Berry, 19, Wenham Drive, Westcliff.
- **Health Ambassador Award**: Lewis Brooks, 16, Eastwoodbury Crescent, Southend.
- **Personal Journey Award** – Shelley Braybrook, 22, Gipsom Park Close, Eastwood.
- **Overcoming Adversity** – George, 21, Southend.
- **The Gerald Melish Award** – Leigh Baptist Church Young Fundraisers.
- **The Young People's Champion Award** – Ron Wright, Southend YMCA, chairman of trustees.
- **Beki Ali Award** – Southend Vocational College.

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STARS: Members of the council's Fulfilling Lives A Better Start Project team receive the Mayor's Award from Mayor Cllr Chris Walker

Council honours its shining stars

COUNCIL staff who go the extra mile have been honoured at a special ceremony.

They received accolades at the council's annual Stars Awards held at Southend Leisure and Tennis centre which celebrates the authority's unsung heroes and heroines.

The teams and individuals were chosen from 400 nominations made by the public, councillors and colleagues.

Chief executive Rob Tinlin said the Stars Awards celebrated the best of what the authority could achieve as an organisation.

Mr Tinlin said: "Every staff member nominated has gone that extra mile to help the people of Southend and to deliver our goal in creating a better Southend."

"We are recognised as an authority which delivers consistently high-quality services, often in quite innovative ways, in the face of huge

challenges such as increasing demand and reducing resources.

"This is down mainly to the excellence of our staff and their commitment to the community."

Council leader Ron Woodley, said standards throughout the council were high.

He said: "We are extremely pleased that so many other organisations want to be associated with the council and with our Stars Awards and we are also very grateful to those who generously sponsor the awards.

"Without their support finance, it would not be possible to hold this event."

The Mayor's Award, sponsored by Civica, went to the Fulfilling Lives A Better Start Project team. It put together Southend's Big Lottery bid and having secured £40million over 10 years to benefit the area's young and most vulnerable children its work continues.

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Peter Pan promises a treasure-chest full of comedy, much seasoned silliness, stunning flying sequences, and the perfect festive treat for all the family, and we have five family tickets to join the fun.

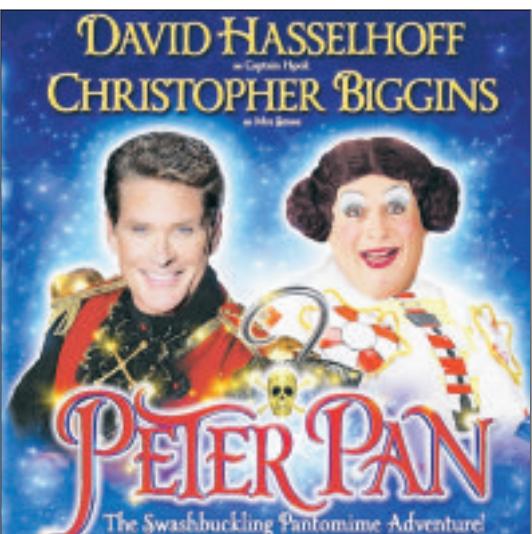
David, who is best known for his roles as Michael Knight in Knight Rider and Mitch Buchanan in Baywatch, is thrilled to be heading to Southend this Christmas as pantomime's ultimate baddie.

He said: "I love performing in pantos. It's a wonderful British tradition and a great excuse to get the whole family together and enjoy a wonderful and entertaining time at the theatre.

If you want to be hooked by this swashbuckling pantomime adventure which has been enthraling audiences for decades, make sure you book your seats – the show is in Southend from Saturday, December 13, 2014, and Sunday, January 11, 2015.

For further information and tickets call the Box Office on 01702 351135 or visit www.southendtheatres.org.uk

For your chance to win one of five family tickets, each valid for two adults and two children, for the 7.30pm performance of



Peter Pan at the Cliffs Pavilion on Sunday, December 14, just answer the following question.

Q: What is the name of the group of boys who are Peter's companions in Neverland?

- A: The Missing Boys
B: The Stray Boys
C: The Lost Boys**

To enter the competition telephone your answer - A, B or C – to (0901 307 1687) along with your name, address, telephone number and email.

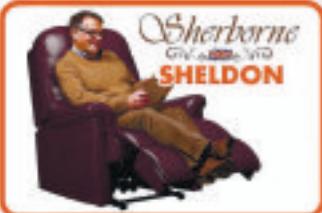
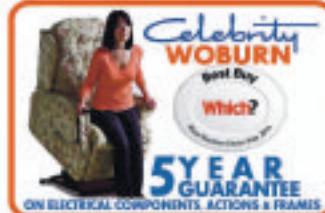
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Lines close on Monday, December 8, 2014. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

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Recruitment campaign wins award

SOUTH Essex College's marketing team have won a national award for their current recruitment campaign.

The team was awarded the first prize in the recruitment campaign category at the College Marketing Network's FE First Awards.

The winning 'Our classroom, our playground, our homework' campaign compares the college to a traditional school environment, showing prospective students the contemporary surroundings and atmosphere at the college.

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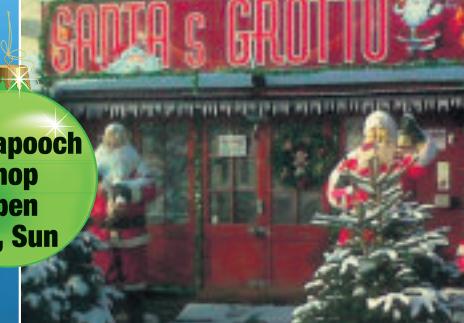
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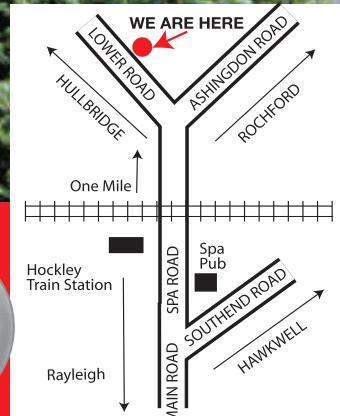
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Gallery stages Sorrell show



WORKS: Curator Claire Reed with one of Alan Sorrell's pictures

A NEW exhibition at the Beecroft Art Gallery will showcase an internationally renowned artist whose early promise was nurtured in Southend.

The work of Alan Sorrell can be seen at the gallery in the former Southend Central Library building, in Victoria Avenue, until April.

Sorrell (1904-1974) originally trained at Southend School of Art, which at the time was at the top of High Street, on a site now occupied by Sainsbury's and Southend Odeon.

He studied at the Royal College of Art before win-

ning a scholarship to the British School at Rome in 1928.

The artist, whose work features different mediums and subjects, regularly visited the Beecroft and exhibited there from the 1950s until his death.

Sorrell was renowned for his reconstruction drawings of ancient sites, shown as they appeared in their heyday.

Councillor for enterprise, tourism and economic development, Graham Longley, said he was grateful to the Sorrell family, Liss Fine Art Ltd and to private lenders for helping with the show.

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Opinion and readers' letters

Government out of touch on our debt

CHUKKA Umunna on BBC Question Time spouting rubbish that we need the high levels of immigration in this country because our national health service will collapse without them because they have skills that our own people do not have and they do jobs that we will not do.

This exposes Chukka's complete lack of understanding and absence of historical knowledge and perfectly displays why we are in this downward spiral of debt, greed, waste and false dependency on immigrant labour.

Successive mollycoddling weak Governments have encouraged British laziness syndrome, an over reliance on the nanny state, rewarding laziness with easy benefits.

These out of touch, "I'm all right Jack" governments have removed free educational processes out of the reach of normal working people who can no longer afford to learn and achieve high level jobs as scientists, doctors, engineers, teachers.

Successive generations have been systematically demoralised. Past governments have destroyed the educational fabric, culture, pride and discipline that produced world leading British standards and the world's best killed tradesmen.

No more do we turn out swathes of innovative entrepreneurial young people who strive for betterment and hunger for achievement. Greedy elite political establishments and fat cat bankers have served only themselves for the past 60 years, bringing this country to its knees in debt, inflicting the misery of inept education on its own people.

Killing our kids in recent wars that we have no right in fighting, dictating to other nations our false democratic standards.

The only way to repair the UK is with tough love, it is time for a new awakening. No more nanny state, easy benefits or unqualified school leavers, no more importing workers to do jobs that our own people can do with positive encouragement and meaningful training. No more limp-wrist discipline forcing society into kowtowing to recidivist criminals who laugh at us.

There is a place for all races, creeds and cultures in the UK, based on a controlled, intelligent immigration policy that harvests the best skills the world has to offer, but only if our own population do not have the skills or we can't train them.

We should offer sanctuary to the persecuted. As the grandson of Irish and Jew I see how immigration has enriched this country, but we can't house the whole world here.

So lets not be afraid to freely speak sense, or stand up for our future, or to remove those who plot our downfall, or pun-

ish law breakers with hard labour, long sentences and rehabilitate them back into contributing to society.

Let's encourage industriousness, discourage intolerance, generously reward the life-savers, peacekeepers and idolise carers of the old and infirm, not greedy bankers, piggy politicians, materialistic footballers and talentless foul mouthed egotistic celebrities.

It's not rocket science, it's common sense.

Wake up, it's time for a new, fairer method of Government.

D Shindler,
Shoeburyness

The cost of Labour's achievements

IT really is a curious case of myopia, but all those "achievements" D. Bodimeade lists in his letter last week - as legislated into being by the Labour Party - cost billions of pounds annually.

Of course, none of them are paid for by the Labour politicians ... and there is an "administration fee". Various "gifts" are magnanimously redistributed despite being paid for from the money (value) created by the very people, that are supposed to be the happy recipients. It is always those, who expect something for nothing, that get ripped off. After some 800 years, I truly wish we would

finally put an end to this Robin Hood mentality - to redistribute other people's property - but most of all, we should prevent all these Champagne socialists from getting their grubby little hands into the public coffers, while bamboozling covetous "innocents". So, while the socialists claim, that all those travesties of justice are for the benefit of the working people, this could not be farther from the truth. They are just making us pay for the luxury of their "compassion".

Fred Nicholson
Westcliff

welcome that greeted so many of our people when they returned from the Spanish Civil War, having fought against the fascists under Franco.

However, Cameron, with his policy of one size fits all, has decided to mete out punishment on all, not just those who went to form part of ISIS but also those who went with humanitarian reasons.

In consequence not only will such action antagonise those wishing to return but also their loving families, with the prospects of alienation in the future.

Les Harrington
Benfleet

Just not enough space

WHO'S to blame for this housing crisis?

Did this and previous governments ever think their open door policy would come back to haunt them?

Telling the elderly to downsize their properties won't solve it, nor will the extra room tax, or building more houses.

The only way is to stop

immigration. That's not racist, it just makes sense.

We come top of the list to give safe havens for asylum seekers, we are generous to many charities, giving millions in overseas aid.

We are not short of giving aid to all sorts of disasters, what we are short of is space! There is precious little of it, that should be evident to the government, as it is to the majority of this country who pay tax.

K.L Benson
Leigh-on-Sea

■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. Contributions may be edited for reasons of space.

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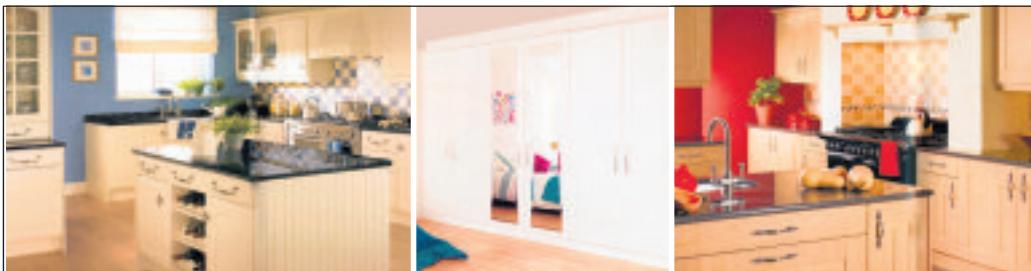
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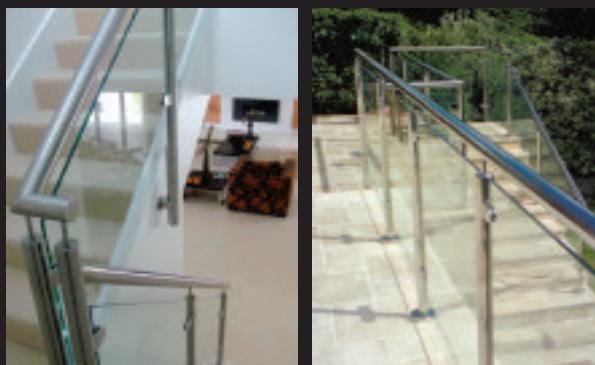
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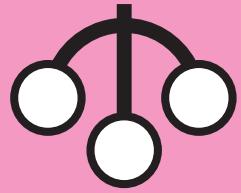
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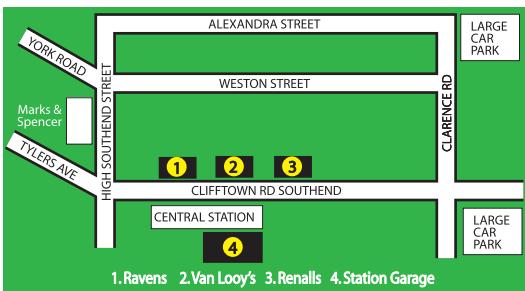
A street packed with independent traders offers the ideal location for everything you need this Christmas from gifts for your loved ones to getting ready for that all important festive night out.

Christmas is big in Clifftown Road, Southend, as traders offer an individual service to their shoppers, which they say is much more personal than the bigger department stores. Del Gaisford, owner of Renalls Jewellers and Pawnbrokers said. "We are all individual retailers in the street offering that little bit more than the bigger chains. If you go to a national chain, you can't ask for a deal there because they have to phone their head office. We on the other hand can as we are all independent traders."

Renalls is the oldest established jewellers in Essex having first opened its doors in 1890, and has seen many changes in the area including surviving through two World Wars. The premises offers huge savings on High Street stores, diamond

set jewellery from £10 to £10,000, as well as special Sunday opening right up to Christmas - ideal for all those last minute gifts.

Southend's original department store, Ravens, has been offering shoppers an unparalleled choice of menswear, womenswear, ladies shoes and accessories. The store is an Aladdin's cave for gifts over three retail floors, with everything from stocking filler ideas, crystal jewellery and leather goods, to a



vast variety of menswear and an ever-increasing selection of contemporary womenswear from top international designers.

Those looking for a traditional meal whilst out shopping can dine at Van Looy's Fish and Chips Restaurant, or take a bite to eat away with them to enjoy at home. The fully licensed restaurant and takeaway offer a range of quality fish as well as other favourites, and has value-for-money offers including a senior citizen deal, a student special and a Sunday roast deal.

With the strain of Christmas shopping trips and festive journeys ahead why not check your car is tip top condition for the winter months. Station Garage is offering a free winter check on tyres, anti-freeze, screenwash and oil for readers producing its avert, and are offering to reset all your warning lights including ABS and airbags, as well as check your engine and service your lights for just £30. With so much to offer Clifftown Road in Southend really is the ideal place to go for everything you need this Christmas.

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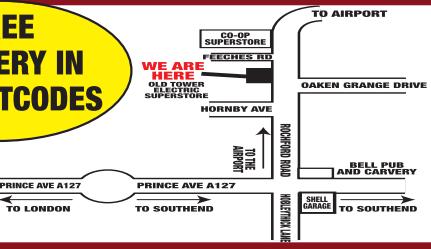
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PHILLY SOUL: The Three Degrees



Degrees of success

THE Three Degrees, who feature in the Guinness World Records as the longest-running female vocal group in history, will be appearing at Broadway Theatre, Barking, in February, as part of a 20-date UK tour.

The tour, which kicks-off in Weston-super-Mare in January, sees The Three Degrees celebrating 50 years in the business, and treats audiences to such classics as Gee Baby (I'm Sorry), Maybe, I Do Take You, TSOP (The Sound of Philadelphia), When Will I See You Again, Take Good Care of Yourself and Woman In Love.

Celebrating this milestone are original 1960s members Helen Scott and Valerie Holiday, as well as Freddi Pool, who joined the group in 2011, following Cynthia Garrison's departure due to ill health.

Over the years the trio have become one of the most internationally popular and enduring soul groups in history.

Formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1963, The Three Degrees were brought together by veteran writer and producer, Richard Barrett, who produced the band's first hit Gee Baby, for Philadelphia-based

record label, Swan Records. With various changes in band personnel, Barrett began the process of moulding the trio into a regional favourite, training them extensively and booking them at record shops and talent contests throughout the US.

In 1970, they signed with the New York-based Roulette Records and had a top five hit with the remake of The Chantels' song Maybe, with Holiday on lead vocals and her unforgettable rap. During this time, the trio made a cameo appearance in the movie The French Connection.

In 1972, the trio signed with Gamble and Huff's acclaimed label Philadelphia International Records. They made an immediate splash with the disco hit Dirty Ol' Man before joining with MFSB (the Philadelphia International house band) to record the Soul Train theme tune, TSOP (The Sound of Philadelphia), which became a number one hit.

The following year, they would record their signature song, the sophisticated ballad, When Will I See You Again, the group's biggest international hit.

● Turn to page 22

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JACKIE very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated. 28yr old female, loves nights in/out, sports. WLTM sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully lr. Tel No: **0906 500 3766** Box No: **415377**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: **0905 002 1883** Box No: **413399**

DONNA 36yrs un-modest but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. Tel No: **0906 500 3766** Box No: **415187**

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. Tel No: **0905 002 1887** Box No: **413443**

ALISON 27yr old very bored broadminded female with plenty of free time on her hands looking for some adult fun times. Call me, I won't disappoint. Tel No: **0906 500 3766** Box No: **415177**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel No: **0905 002 1937** Box No: **415301**

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LUCY, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreet fun with men any age, Aca. Tel No: **0905 002 1941** Box No: **365051**

JACKIE extremely sensual lady but for your eyes only! likes horses, keeping fit, gardening looking for genuine love interest and companionship. Tel No: **0906 500 3766** Box No: **414721**

SEXY brunette, mid 20's busty, adventurous broad minded seeks no strings fun. Tel No: **0905 002 1949** Box No: **361739**

TERI separated single lady blonde, blue eyes, slim, WLTM compatible male for genuine friendship, meals out, weekends away, nights out and more. Tel No: **0906 500 3766** Box No: **414361**

SALLY, 38yrs large cuddly lady seeks slim men for discreet meetings. Text Only **4550193**

CHRISTMAS is coming. Slim blonde, 64, size 10, seeks gent of similar age for her Christmas cracker and New Year's Resolution. Tel No: **0906 500 3766** Box No: **414925**

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Cinema

Murray's mint

RIOTOUS FORM: Bill Murray

PA Photo/Handout/
The Weinstein Company



ST VINCENT (12A, 102 mins)

A MODERN-DAY Scrooge is moved by the plight of a young boy in Theodore Melfi's touching and frequently uproarious comedy.

There are neither jingling bells nor ghostly visitations in St Vincent – the only spirits are swigged from a bottle – but Dickens' underlying theme of the redemption of the human spirit rings true in this valentine to Bill Murray.

The Oscar-nominated star of Ghostbusters,

Groundhog Day and Lost In Translation is in riotous form in Melfi's delightful film,

deploying split-second comic timing to devastating effect as he reveals a beating heart of gold beneath the shambolic appearance of his penny-pinching curmudgeon.

His irascible old coot might gamble, smoke and drink to excess, and seek physical pleasure in the company of a heavily pregnant Russian prostitute, but we fall head over heels for Murray's virtuous portrayal and it's a love affair that endures the film's occasional lull or sloppy characterisation.

"He's sort of cool, in a grouchy sort of way," Oliver assures his mother about his new guardian.

While Maggie works long hours to keep a roof over their head, Vincent introduces Oliver to horse racing, his feisty Russian companion-for-money Daka (Naomi Watts) and an elderly woman with Alzheimer's

Newcomer Jaeden

Lieberher is magnificent as the spirited tyke, whose innocence and unwavering faith provide a beacon of hope for the self-destructive codger to stumble back into the land of the living.

Writer-director Melfi wrings us dry of laughter and tears in the process.

Vincent (Murray) lives in a ramshackle house in Brooklyn with a pet cat and dreams of the past.

He owes a small fortune to bookie Zucko (Terrence Howard), who is reluctantly threatening to smash Vincent's kneecaps unless fortunes change.

Lady Luck smiles on the sexagenarian loner when struggling single mother Maggie (Melissa McCarthy) and her son Oliver (Lieberher) move in next door and Vincent exploits Maggie to become the lad's babysitter.

"He's sort of cool, in a grouchy sort of way," Oliver assures his mother about his new guardian.

While Maggie works long hours to keep a roof over their head, Vincent introduces Oliver to horse racing, his feisty Russian companion-for-money Daka (Naomi Watts) and an elderly woman with Alzheimer's

called Sandy (Donna Mitchell), who he visits at an expensive nursing home.

When Vincent's schoolteacher brother Geraghy (Chris O'Dowd) asks his impressionable charges to deliver a verbal report on someone they consider a 21st century saint, Oliver knows exactly who he wants to canonise.

St Vincent is anchored by Murray's award-worthy performance, but the supporting cast is equally impressive, often in underwritten roles. McCarthy abandons her usual schtick to embody a mother in crisis and Watts plies a thick cod-eastern European accent as the working girl looking for a break.

O'Dowd scene-steals with aplomb as a holy man with heavenly quips: "I'm a Catholic, which is the best religion because we have the most rules."

Aided by a leading man in rude health, writer-director Melfi doesn't slather on the sentimentality too thick as he exposes glimmers of hope for each dysfunctional character and encourages them to walk towards the light comedy.

Released: December 5
RATING: 8/10

Stage

Three Degrees and Dickson tours

From page 21

Releasing one album on Epic Records in 1976, two years later, they teamed up with Giorgio Moroder (of Donna Summer fame), on Ariola Records and a new string of hits helped the threesome to make some of their biggest strides with hits such as Giving Up, Giving In, The Runner, My Simple Heart, and the ballad Woman In Love.

The trio were bigger than ever in the UK, with Prince Charles later proclaiming The Three Degrees were his favourite group and the British press fondly labeling them as "Charlie's Angels".

The trio performed at many charity events hosted by several members of the royal family and in 1978 they were asked to perform at the 30th birthday celebration for Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace. In 1981, they were invited guests at the wedding reception of Diana Spencer and Prince Charles.

The influence and popularity of The Three Degrees has played an important role in bringing soul music to the world and they continue to be considered around the globe as one of the most important ambassadors of American soul music, more than five decades after its birth and they show no signs of slowing down.

Degrees have constantly toured all over the world, occasionally recording but always working.

Holiday said: "For us, it is still exciting and we still enjoy our work.

"We are blessed with a wide age group appeal....from 15 to 65."

Scott goes on to add: "We have opened a lot of doors for other entertainers. In some cases, we may not have always succeeded but we have never given up.

"It still amazes me when we see teenagers singing along with our songs. And yet we still have the fans who have grown with us."

For further information and tickets to see Barbara Dickson call the Towngate theatre box office on 01268 465465 or visit www.towngatetheatre.co.uk.

For further information and tickets to see The Three Degrees at the Broadway Theatre on Saturday, February 14, call the box office on 020 8507 5607 or visit www.thebroadwaybarking.com.

Liz at Large

YA features reporter Liz Wade goes out and about with her boys



Something for everyone at museum

WHETHER you like archaeology or animals, ceramics or rock and roll, there's something for all the family to enjoy at Chelmsford Museum.

What's more, a visit to the museum offers something extra as there is also the Essex Regiment Museum to explore at the venue, situated in award-winning Oaklands Park.

Chelmsford Museum, which began life back in 1835 when it was established by the area's philosophical society and housed inside part of Chelmsford Prison, is now packed with artefacts and information on the fascinating story of Chelmsford, from as far back as the Ice Age.

Its wide range of galleries cover everything from industry and local treasures, to domestic and community life, and fossils found throughout the south east.

A range of permanent exhibitions include The Story of Chelmsford which includes major archaeological monuments and sites in the district, and its Bright Sparks area which shows how modern industries grew in Chelmsford – the home of the world's first wireless factory, the UK's first electrical engineers and the first British man-

ufacturer of ball and roller bearings.

Delve into the history of domestic and community life in Chelmsford with the help of a reconstructed Victorian kitchen, and information on the area's music and leisure scene, and gaze at fossils from locations across the south east as well as a collection of rocks and minerals in The Geology Room.

If you are artistic, then take a look at ceramics from the 17th and 18th centuries in their extensive display of pottery including pieces of Victorian Essex Art Pottery, which were made by Edward Bingham and his family at Castle Hedingham in North Essex, and the Chelmsford Sissies – a contemporary and decorative pot by Chelmsford-born Turner Prize winner Grayson Perry. What's more there are also 400 pieces in The Tunstall Collection of Glasses left to the museum by Frederick Tunstall in 1957, and important collections of decorative and fine arts.

Visit the Bee Room with a working hive, take a look at different

kinds of British birds as well as mammals and vertebrates in the Natural Sciences exhibition, and marvel at the magnificent oak panelled interior of Oaklands House, which was one of the largest and most imposing houses in Chelmsford when it was built in 1866, and has housed the museum since 1930. The Victorian house, built by coal and timber merchant Frederick Wells, may now be smaller than it was when it was first built, as the servant's quarters were demolished between 1920 and 1930, the museum and the Essex Regiment Museum, now have extra space thanks to a purpose-built extension.

The Essex Regiment Museum looks at the traditions, stories, battles and daily lives of its soldiers and follows their fortunes during major conflicts including both World Wars and the Korean War, as well as displaying its trophies including the famous Salamanca Eagle – a Napoleonic standard captured from the French in 1812.



EXTENSION: Part of the Marconi exhibit on show at Oaklands Park Museum

It also houses a section on the Essex Yeomanry from its founding in 1794 as a volunteer cavalry formed by prominent landowners.

Alongside all this, Chelmsford Museum also offers a variety of events and activities taking place throughout the year, and up-and-coming events include a Christmas Crafts drop-in session on Saturday, December 20, from 2 to 4pm, where you can make special cards and decorations. Last entry to the event, which costs £5 for one adult and one child, and £3

for an additional child, is at 3.15pm and you can drop in or book in advance by calling 01245 605700.

It also hosts different exhibitions throughout the year and current exhibitions include an exhibition of original work by the Writtle Art Group, which runs up until January 11, 2015, which will be followed by an exhibition by The Hive Artist Studios, Chelmsford, from January 24 to March 22, 2015.

*For further information visit www.chelmsford.gov.uk/museums

You can read previous days out Liz and her boys have enjoyed by visiting www.yellowad.co.uk and clicking on blogs

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■ Flamingo Fairs vintage and more fair, Churchill Room, Wanstead Library, corner of Woodbine Place and Spratt Hall Road 11am-4pm.

Sunday, December 7

- Christmas Bazaar, 11am-1pm, Mazenod Hall, Eastwood Road North, Leigh-on-Sea, stilt tombola, free admission.
- Mushrooms Theatre Company, Christmas Spectacular, Mushrooms at Christmas, 7pm, Holy Trinity Church Rayleigh, 01268 742151, £5 adults £2 juniors, office@parishofrayleigh.org.uk.
- Crowestone's Christmas Fayre, 10.30am-2pm, St George's United Reformed Church, 91, Crowestone's Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 8LH. Santa face-painting, bric-a-brac and more. 50p, 01702 352668.
- Christmas Fayre, St Mary's Church Hall, Prittlewell, 10am-12pm, proceeds to HARP and CMS, Santa's Grotto, 50p.
- The South Essex Esse Ramblers, walks weekly, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/southeastsexramblers/> to find out when we are walking this week.
- Christmas Fayre, St Mary's Church Hall, Prittlewell, 10am-12pm, proceeds to HARP and CMS, Santa's Grotto, 50p.
- Transmission Meditation Workshop – Hellifield Room, Forum Library Southend 10-11.30am admission free.
- Rayleigh History Walk, 3pm from Rayleigh Windmill, Bellingham Lane, off High Street, 22 pp, info 01268 775328.
- Yugioh Club, play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm, 07985 671289.
- Dads and Kids Club, The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 10.30am-1.30pm, games, activities, arts and crafts, for boys and girls five to 17 with fathers and father figures. 01268 779100.
- Saturday Club, St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am-noon, entertainment from choirs, soloists, musicians, admission free, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, 01702 437863.
- Brush Strokes Art Group, Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, 9.15am-12.15pm,

Monday, December 8

- Cards for Good Causes Pop-up Shop 10am-4pm, Monday to Saturday, Southend Central Library until December 18.
- Ron Spack's Jazzyt, John Sharpe sax/Alex Boyle keyboard, Oakwood Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, 8.30pm, 01702 512819.
- Echoes from Above spiritual centre based at Ekco Sports and Social Club, Thornford Gardens, SS2 6PU. 7.15pm. £3.50, all profits

- to charity, wards at Southend Hospital. For information visit FB page, Echoes from Above.
- Sunshine coffee morning for parents in Craylands and Felmers area, Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am. Free informative workshop, coffee, cake and creche. Call Dawn 07880 035968, or just turn up.
- Monday beginners dance class, usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashtonold and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Leigh Scrabble Club, 7-10pm. All standards welcome, Welsley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Just turn up or call Peter on 01268 772915.
- George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s. Craft: 10am-noon, tai chi: whilst 9.45-12.30, 10am-12pm, art: 12.30-2.30pm, choir: 2.30-4pm, indoor bowls: 2-4pm, £2, 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club, Benfleet's No 1 Club, Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm, entertainment, all welcome.
- Counselling service, The Olive Tree Centre, open to all, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes, Fryerns Community Centre, Monday afternoons, further details Pat 01268 770294.
- Over-50s session, Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Badminton and table tennis 2-4pm. £3.50 inc refreshments and equipment. 01268 773100.
- Activity Session for adults with special needs, 10am to noon. The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £1 per session, no charge for carers.
- Duplicate Bridge, Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm and Tues 7pm-10.30pm, call Vernon on 01702 343611 or Tony 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge, Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend, non-members of all standards welcome 2-4.45pm (nr partner needed), evenings 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop, St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, 6-8pm, details Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group, Mondays and Wednesdays 8-10pm, James Hornby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff Levy 07951 681582 or email join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba, Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Beginners computer course, Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 11am-1pm. 01268 465432.

Tuesday, December 9

- Counselling service, The Olive Tree Centre, open to all, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yoga Class – Thorpeneide Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6 beginners welcome, Bring a blanket and yoga mat, 16-plus. 07961 314983.

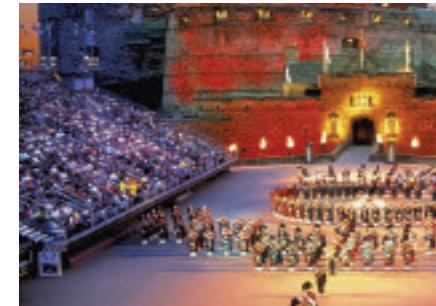
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- Social dance class, with instruction, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall, Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Table Tennis, 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.
- Singles Friendship club for over-55s, South Benfleet Social Club, Maureen 01268 692998.
- Craft Group, Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh, 2.30-4pm. No charge or booking required, Emma 01702 471873.
- Willows Park Short Mat Bowls Club require new or experienced players, James Hornby School, Landon. First session free, call or text Alan on 07952 043456.
- Tea Dance, 1.45pm at St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff, Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.
- Evening of clairvoyance, St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, enquiries Anne 01702 556470.
- Folk Music, The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, Steve Tilston, 8pm 01702 715111.
- Tea Dance, Ashingdon Memorial Hall, Ashingdon Road, Rochford, ballroom, Latin and sequence, 2-4pm, 01702 584575.
- Scrabble Club, Hockley Social Centre (at rear of library) 6.30-10pm, first two visits free, 2-5pm. All ages welcome, also second Saturday and fourth Saturday of the month. 01702 205910.
- Ladies Fellowship at the Salvation Army, Hadleigh, 7.30pm, speakers, chatter nights, outings, meals out and summer walks, 50p per week or annual subscription, just come along or call 01702 551470.
- The Puffers' Club, exercise class for people with breathing difficulties run by people with breathing difficulties, Ambleside Sports and Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 12.45-2.30pm, 01702 610050/466827.
- Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group, Fryerns Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, wide range of activities and outings, 9.30am-2pm and Fridays 10am-2.30pm.
- Evening of clairvoyance, St Cecilia's Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, details Anne 01702 556470.
- The George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, yoga: 10-11am, sit-down yoga: 11.10am-12.10pm, keep fit: noon-1pm, line dancing: 1.20-2.20pm, chess: 1.30-3.30pm, craft: 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 465854.
- Singles Social Group, The Mews, Nelson Mews, off Clarence Road car park, Southend, 50-plus, 8pm, 07970 432994.
- Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus,

South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, details Maureen 01268 692998.
 ■ New and nearly new stall, outside St Martin's Church, Town Centre, Basildon, (if wet, in church foyer), 10am-noon.
 ■ Table Top Sale, Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, 01702 258661.
 ■ Carpet Bowls, Eastwood Community Centre, top of Morrisons car park, 1.45-3.45pm, no experience necessary, £2 per session inc tea, joining fee £5, first session free.
 ■ Bingo and Hoy, Wick Community Centre, Wickford, 1.30-4pm, details John Clarke 01268 570575.
 ■ Top Cats Social Club, (Southend Mencap), Castle View School, Meppel Avenue, Canvey, 7-9.45pm, for adults with learning disabilities, aged 25-plus, £2 per session, details 01702 341250.
 ■ Tuesday Luncheon Club, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff, for people living alone or with their carers, details 01702 478691/525141/340617.
 ■ Little Lunchers Activity Club, St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.
 ■ Vange Tots, The Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, £1, snack and drinks provided for all, 01268 498642.
 ■ Shoebury Flagship, Rainbow Children's Centre, Friars School, Constance Way, Shoebury, 1.30-3.30pm, health team offering activities, advice and support for parents with children aged up to five, 01702 577656.

Wednesday, December 10

- Southend Beating Bowel Cancer Support Group, Xmas Party, Nazareth House, London Road, Southend, 1.30-4.30pm, 01702 312959.
- Jazz Circle-Recorded Music, 8pm, Eko Clubhouse, Thornfield Gardens.
- Breathe Easy Group, mutual support, friendship and advice, 1.30-3.30pm, Small Hall, Our Lady of Good Counsel, 61 London Road, Wickford, SS12 0AW.
- Essex Handicraft Association, St Barnabas Church Hall, Hadleigh, 01702 479862.
- Counselling service, The Olive Tree Centre, open all, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- The Concord Ladies Club of Rayleigh, 1.30-3pm, speakers, social afternoons, outings. New members welcome, Caley Hall, Crown Hill, Rayleigh, 01268 743240.
- Leigh Singles Social Club, 45-65s, Bellini's, London Road, Leigh, www.leighsingles.co.uk for details.
- Activity sessions, The Megacentre, 7

- Activity Session for children with special needs, ages five to 18. The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, Donation of £1 per session, siblings welcome.
- Graham's Social Tea Dance, Richmond Hall, Richmond Avenue, Benfleet, Ballroom, Latin and sequence dances for dancers of all abilities, 2-4.25pm, free car park, strictly over-18s, £4/person, 01268 752473.
- George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s. Keep fit: 10-11am, salsa/ballroom: 11.30am-12.30pm, sequence dance: 12.30-1.15pm, art: 1.30-3.30pm, indoor bowls: 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 465854.
- Barn Dance, Grand Ceilidh Club, Royal Naval Association, East Street, Southend, live music from Alexandra Parker, 8.30pm, 01702 553622.
- Indoor Carpet Bowls, St Edmunds Hall, Pantile Avenue, Southend, 2-4pm, details contact Olive 01702 309280.
- Played bowls before? Come and try it at FS&S Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon, all weather green, free coaching given, call Chris 01268 419831.
- Breathing Exercise Group, run by Breathe Easy Basildon, Steeple View Memorial Hall, 1-2.30pm, if you have COPD or recently finished pulmonary rehabilitation call Honorie 01268 574390.
- Leigh Singles Social Club, Bellini's, London Road, Leigh, for ages 45-65, 8pm, www.leighsingles.co.uk
- Social Afternoon of ballroom and Latin dancing, Mill Hall, Rayleigh, 1.45-4.15pm, with Pat and Bob, 01702 544112.
- Line Dancing Lessons, St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh, 12.30-2.30pm, helping to raise funds for the church hall, 01268 281488.
- Afternoon Tea Dance, Richmond Hall, High Road, Benfleet, (entrance off Richmond Avenue), free car park, 2-4.30pm, £4/person, inc refreshments, strictly over 18-s, 01268 752473.
- Health Walk, Canvey Sea Wall, 10.30am, meet Lubworth car park, Canvey Island, details 01702 318121.
- Alanon, International/Worldwide Support Group for families, and friends of alcoholics and other addictions, 1 Sutton Road, All Saints Church, Southchurch, Southend, 7.30pm, (non-denominational).
- Pulse Drum Club, St David's Church Hall, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, 3.45pm-4.45pm, £3 per session, 01702 540111.
- Over-50s session, Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh. Badminton and short mat bowls 2-4pm, £3.50 inc refreshments and use of equipment, 01268 773100.
- Activity sessions, The Megacentre, 7

Brook Road, Rayleigh, for children with special needs, aged five to 18, free entry, siblings welcome, details 01268 779100.

- Palace Writers Group, 7.30pm, alternating venues with the Palace and Cliffs Pavilion, open mic events and public readings planned, details Emily 01702 390472.
- Roche Art Group, St Teresa's Church Hall, located behind the church, 109 Ashingdon Road, Rochford, 7.30-9.30pm, visitors welcome, details Gill 01702 421737.
- Advanced Computer Course, Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.30-11.30am, 01268 465432.
- Duplicate Bridge, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh, 7.30pm, details Hilary 01702 712501.
- Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group, Buttercup Club, Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road, Leigh, 9.30am and 11am, 01702 712150.
- Brentwood Buddies new social club for ages 40-60, The Essex Arms, Warley Hill, Brentwood, 8pm, Julie 07969071392 text or phone before turning up.

Thursday, December 11

- Spiritual Connections, Benfleet, The Whitehouse, Klin Road, Benfleet, SS7 1TF, 6.30-10pm, £5, 07412 078675.
- Leigh-on-Sea Camera Club, third colour print competition, Judge: Pauline Martindale, 7.45-10pm, £3 for visitors, www.leighcameroclub.co.uk.
- Counselling service, The Olive Tree Centre, open to all, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Thundersley Gardening Association 7.45pm at Swans Green Hall, Hart Road, Thundersley, please bring exhibits, entrance £3.
- George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s. Line Dancing: 1-2pm, computer £3; 1-3.30pm, indoor bowls: 2.15-4.15pm, bridge 9.30am-12.30pm, ceramics, 1.30-3pm, £2, 01268 465854.
- Health Walk, Hockley Woods, 10.45am, car parking in Hockley Woods Car Park, details 01702 318121.
- Jive classes, Ambleside Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 8pm, £5 (first night free), all ages welcome, no need to bring a partner, 07771 831507.
- Buddies Over 50 Singles Club, Anchor Pub, Benfleet, 8.30pm, details Dee, 01268 565045.
- Westcliff National Spiritualist Church, Hildesley Drive, Westcliff, mediums that demonstrate clairvoyance, 7.30pm and Sundays 6.30pm.

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eating out

Special place for a special occasion

WHEELER'S Tandoori has delicious cuisine in intimate surroundings, making it the ideal place for a range of occasions including Christmas.

This festive season the restaurant will be serving a special five-course set menu for just £16.95 per person. The fantastic meal, including a delicious selection of dishes from Bangla goat curry to tandoori sea bass and crab meat, also includes party hats and crackers, making it ideal for celebrations with friends, family and work colleagues.

A three-course set Christmas Lunch Menu is also available, subject to booking, for which anyone interested is urged to call for further information.

Wheeler's is open on Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day (closed on Christmas Day). On Christmas Eve why not make a booking and enjoy the build-up to the big day with delicious cuisine, or sit back in your own home with a selection of mouth-watering dishes by ordering a takeaway through the website or via the new phone app (Wheeler's Tandoori), which can be found on the App Store or Android play store.

On Boxing Day, Wheeler's Tandoori will be serving a special Christmas Buffet Lunch, from 1pm till late, when you can "eat as much as you like" from a wide range of delicious dishes for just £9.95 for adults and £3.95 for children. On Boxing Day it will also be offering a takeaway service with free home delivery in the local area.

Throughout the year Wheeler's, which has proved popular since opening its doors in 2009, offers a range of deals for diners including a Sunday Buffet. The buffet, which is served from 1pm to 8pm, costs just £7.95 for adults and £3.95 for children under 12, while the under-fives eat for free, making it not only outstanding value-for-money, but a great way to taste different dishes.

Wheeler's also serves an extensive a la carte menu offering a wide choice of meat, seafood



and vegetable dishes, all of which are individually cooked to order by a chef who has more than 30 years' experience.

The establishment, which prides itself on being just how an Indian restaurant should be, serves authentic Indian cuisine in comfortable booths complete with candlelit tables, with magnificent décor, a well stocked bar, full disabled facilities, and a large private car park.

The restaurant, which has a takeaway service offering free home delivery, welcomes taste card

members as well as organisations that want to benefit from its Charity Buffet Events, which cost just £6 per person.

Wheeler's Tandoori Restaurant, at 458 London Road, on Bread and Cheese Hill, Benfleet, is open from noon to 2pm and from 5pm to 11.30pm, from Monday to Thursday, and is open until midnight on Fridays and at weekends.

For further information or to make a reservation, call 01268 757868 or visit www.wheelerstandoori.co.uk or find it on Facebook.

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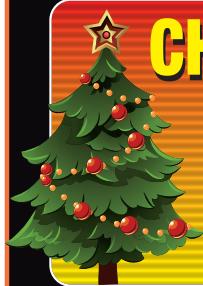
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ONE of the largest restaurants in Essex is the perfect place to celebrate a range of occasions, including Christmas.

Regency Spice Restaurant, Lounge and Diner, in Back Lane, Rochford, will be serving both Christmas party menus, as well as taking bookings for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve.

Its special five-course Christmas Day menu, served from noon to 6pm, combines traditional roast turkey with a selection of home-style Indian cuisine, for just £29.95 per person. While on Boxing Day diners can enjoy a buffet and a la carte cuisine between noon and midnight for just £11.95 for adults and £7.95 for children.

The restaurant is also well known for its Live Entertainment Evenings and Tribute Nights that are held throughout the year. Regency Spice has a range of entertainment evenings throughout December including Kaylie Hawkesworth on December 5; Kirsty Luise on December 6; Vicky Kaylor on December 12; Jade Tibbs on December 13; Abba Unique Girls on December 18; Rebecca Rae on December 19; and Lawren Ashleigh on December 20. There will also be entertainment from Lucy Phillips on New Year's Eve.

As the festive season is popular at the restaurant, anyone interested is urged to call for further information and to book early to avoid disappointment.

Regency Spice has proved popular since opening more than three years ago, thanks to its exquisite food that looks sensational and tastes divine. Its vast menu includes a range of dishes from chef's recommendations to Regency specialities, as well as tandoori specialities, balti dishes, Nepalese and Bangladeshi specialities, Thali and Kurzi specials, Persian, chicken, meat, fresh fish and shellfish dishes, as well as Thai



specialities, vegetarian options and Regency Combination Platters for two or four people.

These are complemented by a wide range of starters, rice dishes, nan breads, sundries and pickles, and desserts, as well as an extensive drinks list including a wide range of beers and wine. Its five-course Midweek Special (served Monday to Thursday), includes poppadoms, starter, main course, rice, side dish or nan bread, and tea or coffee for just £12.95. Its Business Lunch, served from noon to 2.30pm on weekdays, offers a choice of dishes for just £8.95 per person, while its Sunday Buffet, served from noon to 11.30pm, allows you to eat as much as they like from a large selection of delicious dishes for £7.95 per person, or £3.95 for under-10s.

The restaurant's owner, Tony, who has been in the catering business for more than 40 years,

prides himself on his restaurant, which is a wonderful place to celebrate a range of special occasions. It has ample space for large parties, thanks to its separate function room, which is complete with dance floor, sounds, lights and smoke, as well as karaoke.

CHARITY EVENTS

The restaurant, which has full disabled access, can also host charity nights for which it will donate 50 per cent to the charity of your choice.

Regency Spice, which has a full takeaway service including free delivery, is open from noon to 2.30pm and from 5.30pm to midnight, from Monday to Saturday, and from noon to midnight on Sundays.

To make a reservation or for further information about Regency Spice, call 01702 530422 or 01702 531324 or visit www.regencyspice.co.uk

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TAKE AWAY ONLY

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1 NAAN, 2 PAPADOM & ONION SALAD

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SET MEAL FOR 4 PEOPLE £44.95

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COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES



COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES IS RE-AFFIRMED AS RAYLEIGH & BENFLEET'S LOCAL EXPERT

Local independent estate agent, Countryside Estates from Rayleigh & Benfleet has been re-affirmed as their area's Local Expert by Relocation Agent Network.

Countryside Estates were re-affirmed at the 2014 Relocation Agent Network Conference, which took place at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel in Central London on Friday 14 November.

Countryside Estates were originally hand picked to be a member of Relocation Agent Network based on strict criteria such as quality of service, local knowledge and professionalism. Through its affiliation to Cartus, the premier provider of relocation services, Relocation Agent Network members help Cartus assist relocating families, offering Countryside Estates customers an additional channel of buyer when selling their property.

In addition, Relocation Agents also help their customers through their 'Referral Network', which allows Countryside Estates to help people who are looking to move out of the local area by referring them to a Relocation Agent in the location they are moving to.

The Conference day included leading business expert speakers, interactive Conference sessions and a trade exhibition. The event culminated in an evening black tie Awards Dinner hosted by acclaimed comedy actor, Stephen Mangan, best known for his role as the delusional and arrogant anaesthetist, Guy Secretan in the hit Channel 4 hospital sitcom, Green Wing. Currently he stars in the BBC 2 comedy, Episodes with Matt LeBlanc. Stephen presented awards to the night's winning estate agents, including the most coveted Agent of the Year accolade.

Relocation Agent Network Managing Director, Richard Tucker said, "We are thrilled to have re-affirmed Countryside Estates's membership with our Network. They were specially invited to join us and in our opinion, are Rayleigh & Benfleet's Local Expert for buying and selling."



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ASK THE AGENT ALAN KIRKMAN



Alan Kirkman is a Director of both Tudor Estates in Southend and Essex TEAM part of a network of independently owned estate agents who share their instructions for the benefit of giving their client properties maximum market exposure. Alan has been an estate agent for over 32 years.

Q. A lot of agents these days seem to be using guide prices, or price ranges, or "offers in excess of" in their marketing. What are the advantages, if any?

A. The notion that there is a one-size-fits-all approach to property pricing is something of a fallacy. Much depends on the state of the market, the type of property and other factors – and it is part of the individual estate agent's skill to judge those factors and advise accordingly.

For example, you usually find the "guide price" approach – or its close relative, the "offers in the region of" idea – being employed at the upper end of the market. That's where you tend to find the one-offs, the very individual properties, which are notoriously difficult to value in the usual way because of the lack of realistic comparables. It's a lot more difficult to judge market demand for a unique property in a unique setting, than it is for a nice bog-standard 3-bed semi – so, in such cases, agents understandably have to hedge their bets.

Conversely, in the more mainstream sectors of the market, neither of the above approaches are very popular, since they can simply give the impression that the agent doesn't know what he's doing!

As for "offers in excess," some agents claim that in certain markets this approach can help generate higher levels of interest. One of its key advantages, so the argument goes, is that it tends to attract genuinely committed buyers – people who may already have found a buyer for their own property, for instance, and who are now looking at the market very seriously.

Personally, however, I'm not convinced. In my experience, this approach can be very off-putting – 1) because it clearly suggests that prospective buyers are likely to find themselves in a Dutch auction, and 2) because it just looks like greed.

Then there is price banding – and here too, I personally think this is a bit pointless. After all, human nature being what it is, why bother advertising a property at "£350,000-£400,000," when no-one wants to pay more than the lower price!

No, when all's said and done, my own feeling is that it's almost always better to go to market with a clear asking price. Then you know where you stand – and so do potential purchasers. The trick, of course, is to get that asking price right – and that's where a good agent comes in!

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The relevant clauses in the tenancy agreement should set out who is to hold the deposit (e.g. agent or landlord), whether interest is to be paid or not, what the deposit can be allocated for and the end of tenancy procedures and timescales for its refund.

The best way for a tenancy deposit (bond) to be held during the tenancy is by the ARLA member agent as "stakeholder" between the parties (landlord and tenant). This means that at the end of the tenancy the agent should get the agreement of both sides before making any deductions for damage, cleaning etc.

Ideally, the ARLA agent will be signed up to the Tenancy Deposit Scheme (TDS) which means that in the event of an unresolved dispute or stalemate over the allocation of the deposit, it can be referred to the scheme for a prompt, independent, third party adjudication - so providing a resolution which is fair to both landlord and tenant.



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- 3 first floor bedrooms
- G/f bathroom
- Garage and driveway
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SOLE
AGENTS



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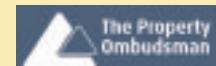
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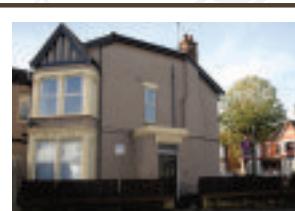
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Probate sale - Thundersley £269,995

Very well presented presented three bedroom semi detached bungalow set well back from the road with an impressive front garden and long independent driveway to a detached garage. Three bedrooms, spacious lounge, separate upvc d/glazed conservatory, spacious modern fitted kitchen, cloaks/w.c., shower room/ w.c., KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. Ref etl5277

Leigh £239,995

KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING this very presented three bedroom family house with Off street parking, 75' approx rear garden (shown above), superb 24'8 x 12'8 Lounge / Diner, 11'4 x 9'8 luxury fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three good size bedrooms, luxury bathroom, double glazing, gas c/h Ref etl5268

2 Bedroom flat, Southend £145,000

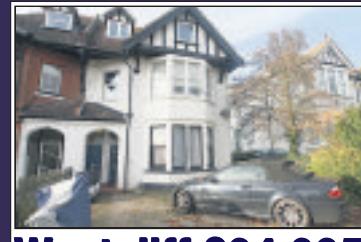
KEYS AVAILABLE TO VIEW THIS large two bedroom first floor flat situated in this popular and convenient location within easy walking distance of Southend Town Centre, Beach, High Street and Stations for Fenchurch Street and Liverpool Street (London). No Onward Chain. Excellent size 18' x 15' lounge, 12' x 11' kitchen, small rear garden. Ref etl5259



New detached 3 double bed Bungalow £320,000

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Town & Country team



Off Kenilworth Gdns, Westcliff £395,000

Extremely rare opportunity - three bedroom semi detached character house in highly sought after location close to High Schools and Hospital, 90' approx west facing rear garden, large lounge, separate dining room, cloaks/w.c., spacious kitchen and separate utility room, bathroom/w.c. double glazing, garage space and parking for three cars. Ref etl5287

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A delightful well presented 2nd floor flat within this impressive character building situated in a sought after location close to Westcliff Station and Hamlet Court Road with its excellent range of restaurants, bars and shops, Westcliff beach is also nearby. Early viewing advised. 175 year lease approx, lounge, kitchen, bathroom/w.c., bedroom, upvc d/glazing. Ref etl5288

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Motoring News

Electric charge lights up a green milestone

By Mike Torpey

THE Renault-Nissan Alliance has celebrated a clean, green milestone with the sale of its 200,000th electric vehicle and has a leading 58 per cent market share for zero-emission cars.

In fact together, Renault and Nissan EVs have driven approximately four billion zero-emission kilometers – enough to circle the earth 100,000 times.

These figures represent 200 million litres of fuel saved, which is enough to fill about 80 Olympic-sized swimming pools, as well as a saving of 450 million kg of CO2 emissions.

The alliance actually sold its landmark EV earlier this month, four years after the launch of the world's first mass-market electric vehicle, the Nissan Leaf, which remains the best-selling electric vehicle.

From January through the first week of November so far this year, the alliance has sold 66,500 units – an increase of about 20 per cent from the same period last year.

And around two out of every three EVs sold worldwide, including Renault's



two-seater urban commuter vehicle and the Nissan e-NV200 van, are from the alliance.

To capture what the first 200,000 consumers love about their electric vehicles, Renault-Nissan is launching a series of videos featuring EV owners on three continents.

"I Made the Switch" tells why people bought their electric vehicles and how switching to a zero-emission vehicle has changed their lives.

The first video features Chris Beers, a software engineer from Massachusetts, USA, an

American who powers his Nissan LEAF with clean solar energy.

In the US, the alliance's biggest electric vehicle market, there are more than 750 quick chargers in operation, though Nissan is working with its dealers and charging partners to increase that number to 1,100 by mid-2015.

This year Nissan also launched its No Charge to Charge programme, which provides free access to selected charging stations for two years with the purchase or lease of a new Leaf model.

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Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of Application to Vary Premises Licence

I, Ms Anna Rita Grech hereby make application to vary the Premises Licence in respect of SUNSET, The Stables, Lucy Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AU.

The proposed variation is: To create a private dance room on the lower ground floor & to create 6 individual booths on the lower ground floor. To create a small stage on the ground floor.

Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representations to the Licensing Authority (Southend-on-Sea Borough Council). All such representations shall be made in writing by 28th December 2014.

Representations should be sent to the Licensing Authority (floor 13), Southend-On-Sea Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-On-Sea, Essex SS2 6ZG. A record of this application and the statutory register of the Licensing Authority, may be inspected at the Council's office address given above, between 08.30am and 4.45pm on Monday to Friday.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000).

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of Application For A Premises Licence

I, Carole Ann French hereby make application for a Premises License in respect of Leigh Dance Centre, 1a, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2HZ.

The relevant licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on are:

To permit Recorded Music, Performance of Dance, Provision of facilities for Dancing, on Monday to Sunday from 0900hrs until 0030hrs. To permit the supply of Alcohol on Monday to Sunday from 1200hrs until 000hrs.

To permit Late Night Refreshments on Monday to Sunday from 2300hrs until 0030hrs.

To permit Live Music, Provision of facilities for making music on Monday to Sunday from 0900hrs until 0000hrs.

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BLUES MAKE IT FOUR IN A ROW

Southend United

Southend United 2

Northampton Town 0

**Brian Jeeves reporting
from Roots Hall Stadium**

SOUTHEND United manager Phil Brown hailed his side's patience after a second-half penalty from Barry Corr coupled with a late David Worrall strike saw off Northampton Town at Roots Hall.

Blues went into the game off the back of three straight League Two victories and bolstered by the addition of midfielder John-Joe O'Toole, who arrived on loan from Northampton two days before. However, some sections of the Roots Hall crowd remained sceptical, believing Brown's men had struggled against weak opposition during the recent triumphs, and that the Cobblers would provide a much sterner test.

It was clear that Southend needed to produce a decent performance, as well as the right result, to convince the doubters that they are genuine promotion candidates.

Chris Wilder's Northampton arrived in south east Essex with only one win from their last five outings, and languishing in the bottom half of the table.

Brown made two changes from the team that won at Tranmere seven days ago. O'Toole was drafted in for his debut, unusually against his parent club, while striker Myles Weston returned to the starting line-up in place of Kevan Hurst who was ill.

And it was the Blues newest recruit O'Toole who almost opened the scoring, Cobblers keeper Jordan Archer parrying away his half-volley, while Jack Payne should have done better, guiding his follow-up off target.

Luke Prosser was next to try his luck, Archer was relieved to see his awkward attempt land on the roof of the net.

Barry Corr sent an effort just over after the industrious Payne had fashioned the chance, but even at an early stage of the game, exchanges were becoming disjointed with neither side able to produce any fluency.

The insipid nature of the game continued, much to the crowds' frustration. Worrall's low centre eluded a clutch of potential takers as Blues continued to display the greater threat. Nevertheless, once again, a lack of quality in the final third was hindering Southend's progress.

Just before the break Northampton passed up a glorious opportunity when the unmarked Ollie Banks arrived at the far post only to fire horribly high into the South Stand from close range. While at the other end, Michael Timlin's vicious free-kick was fisted away by Archer.

The half-time cuppa did very little

to stimulate this docile affair. Kelvin Langmead headed Darren Carter's flag kick just wide as the Cobblers were first to threaten.

Blues skipper John White had the Roots Hall faithful on their feet and Archer scrambling across his goal, but his long range strike whistled into the side netting. At the other end, Cobblers leading marksman Marc Richards sent a dead ball effort from just outside the box frustratingly wayward.

Then came the moment which sparked the game into life. Archer uncharacteristically spilled Weston's deep cross, and in a desperate bid to retrieve the situation, the stricken keeper only succeeded in flooring Blues striker Corr. Referee Keith Stroud had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and giving the keeper his marching orders.

Corr thumped the resulting penalty

high past substitute keeper Matt Duke, much to the relief of the home fans. The game had finally roused, and the Blues should have doubled their advantage almost immediately when Worrall was denied by Duke, this after Weston had played him in.

Duke was then called upon to turn away Weston's curling effort as Southend looked to kill the game off.

But with little more than 10 minutes to go Blues did double their money. Weston played in the lively Worrall and the former Bury man slotted coolly past Duke for his fourth goal of the season.

Carter's late free-kick summed up the visitors afternoon, troubling the scoreboard itself more so than the controller operating it.

Blues finished the match much brighter, and fully deserved their victory.

A satisfied Brown said: "A hard fought victory. I thought again, teams are going to come here and not give you an inch on the pitch and they're going to slow the game down, that was the game plan."

"I was astounded when I got the team sheet and saw that Hackett, Toney and Mohamed were missing. I didn't have a clue what system they were going to play. But they played four midfield players and a narrow front to cater for Jack Payne."

"We've had to be patient. I think that was the key word today. When the patience was repaid, OK, it came with a bit of fortune, the keeper spilled the ball. Barry Corr has reacted best and then all of a sudden it's a penalty and a red card. They are defining moments in games."

"Leading up to that I thought it was their moment [Northampton], they were coming into the game in the second-half, and the frustration and anxiety was there for everybody to see, but I still thought we had enough



PENALTY: Barry Corr
Photo by Dave Montier

quality on the field to win the game."

Timlin said: "It wasn't pretty, we didn't play as well as we should have done. But at the end of the day we needed to get the result."

"That means we're unbeaten for November, a huge improvement since October and obviously a great improvement since the Chester game."

He added: "We know it wasn't great football for the fans to watch, especially at home, we know we need to be playing a lot better football. But at the moment we need to be making sure we get the results. We didn't have the best of starts to the season. Hopefully, we can maintain that, it's all about getting results."

Blues remain in fifth place after

this latest win, four points behind leaders Wycombe Wanderers who they face next at Adams Park on Saturday (kick-off 3pm).

Southend United: Daniel Bentley, John White, Adam Thompson, Luke Prosser, David Worrall, Michael Timlin, Barry Corr, Myles Weston, Will Atkinson, Cian Bolger, Jack Payne (Shaunie Coulthirst), John-Joe O'Toole (Gary Deegan). Subs: Paul Smith, Will Atkinson, Conor Clifford, Shaunie Coulthirst, Gary Deegan, Jerome Binnom-Williams, Jakub Sokolik.

Northampton Town: Jordan Archer, Darren Carter, Kelvin Langmead, Lee Collins, Marc Richards, Ben Tozer, Gregor Robertson, Ricky Ravenhill (Matt Duke), Joel Byrom (Kaid Mohamed), Ollie Banks, Stewart Murdoch (Chris Hackett). Subs: Matt Duke, Emile Sinclair, Lewis Hornby, Davis Mayo, Kaid Mohamed, Ivan Toney. Referee: Keith Stroud. Assistants: Lisa Rachid and Rob Smith. Fourth Official: Ian Rathbone. Attendance: 5,500

Non-league round-up

Concord flying high

by Brian Jeeves

CONCORD Rangers showed no signs of an FA Cup hangover after thrashing Boreham Wood 4-0 at the Aspects Arena in the FA Trophy.

Goals from Tony Stokes, Lewis Taaffe, Joe Gardner and James White secured a memorable triumph over a Boreham Wood team who are top of the Vanarama Conference South Division.

The Beach Boys went into the game without the services of frontman Jordan Chiedozie, this after Sky Bet League Two outfit Cambridge United snapped up the 20-year-old on an 18-month contract.

But it was the end of the Trophy adventure for Chelmsford City who lost a thrilling encounter at Bishop's Stortford by four goals to three.

Michael Cheek, Southend United loanee Jason Williams and Yado Mambo were the Clarets scorers, this after they had trailed 4-0 with 20 minutes remaining.

In the Conference Premier Division, a Joe McNerney goal on the hour was enough to condemn Braintree Town to a disappointing defeat at high-flying Woking.

There was plenty of action in the Ryman League. In the Premier Division, Witham Town won 4-1 against Bury Town, but it wasn't such good news for Grays Athletic who crashed 3-0 at Margate. Billericay Town's scheduled game with Leiston at New Lodge fell foul of the wet weather.

In Division One North, Robbie Rees (2) and Sam Bantick found the net as Brentwood Town saw off Great Wakering Rovers by three goals to nil, while a brace from Harry Cook helped Tilbury to a 2-0 win over bottom of the table Burnham Ramblers.

Aveley picked up the points with a 3-1 success over Dereham Town. Theo Ola, Jack Stevenson and Tyler Devlin netted for the home side, and Joe Bricknell was on target for Barkingside who drew 1-1 at Maldon & Tiptree.

Elsewhere Romford and Harlow Town shared the spoils in a 2-2 draw.

In the Essex Senior League, Clapton led the way, hammering Sawbridgeworth Town 4-0 at the Old Spotted Dog. Barking won an entertaining affair against struggling Southend Manor by the odd goal in five, and FC Romania saw off Sporting Bengal United 3-1.

In the other game, Waltham Forest went down 3-2 at home to Greenhouse London.

The pick of the action in the ProKit Essex Olympian League saw Wadham Lodge win a one-sided Premier Division encounter at Southminster St Leonards by six goals to one.

And there were plenty of goals in Senior Division One.

Ongar Town won a thriller at Canning Town 6-5, while rampant Leigh Ramblers hammered Westhamians 8-2. White Ensign picked up a valuable point from a 2-2 draw with Shenfield AFC.

Southend, Leigh, Shoebury Yellow Advertiser



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	Kitchen Doors 60 Designs 50 Colours	Replacements
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Various sizes - resin bonded trays		
Whirlpools		£249
Corner Pans, Cistern & Seats		£69
Steam Cubicles		£699
Shower Valves		£29
White Wood Panels		£20
Wet Wall Screens from		£69
Sliding Doors 1000 - 1200		£89
Resin Trays from		£25
Shower Heaters		£49
Corner Bath & Panels		£149
Basin Taps		£5 pair
Pedestals & Basins		£10 each
White or Wood Toilet Seats		£4

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Vanity Units

	Standalone furniture HIGH GLOSS 460	£79
560	£89	
650	£99	

	With a tap-white 750, 850, 1050, 1200 Available
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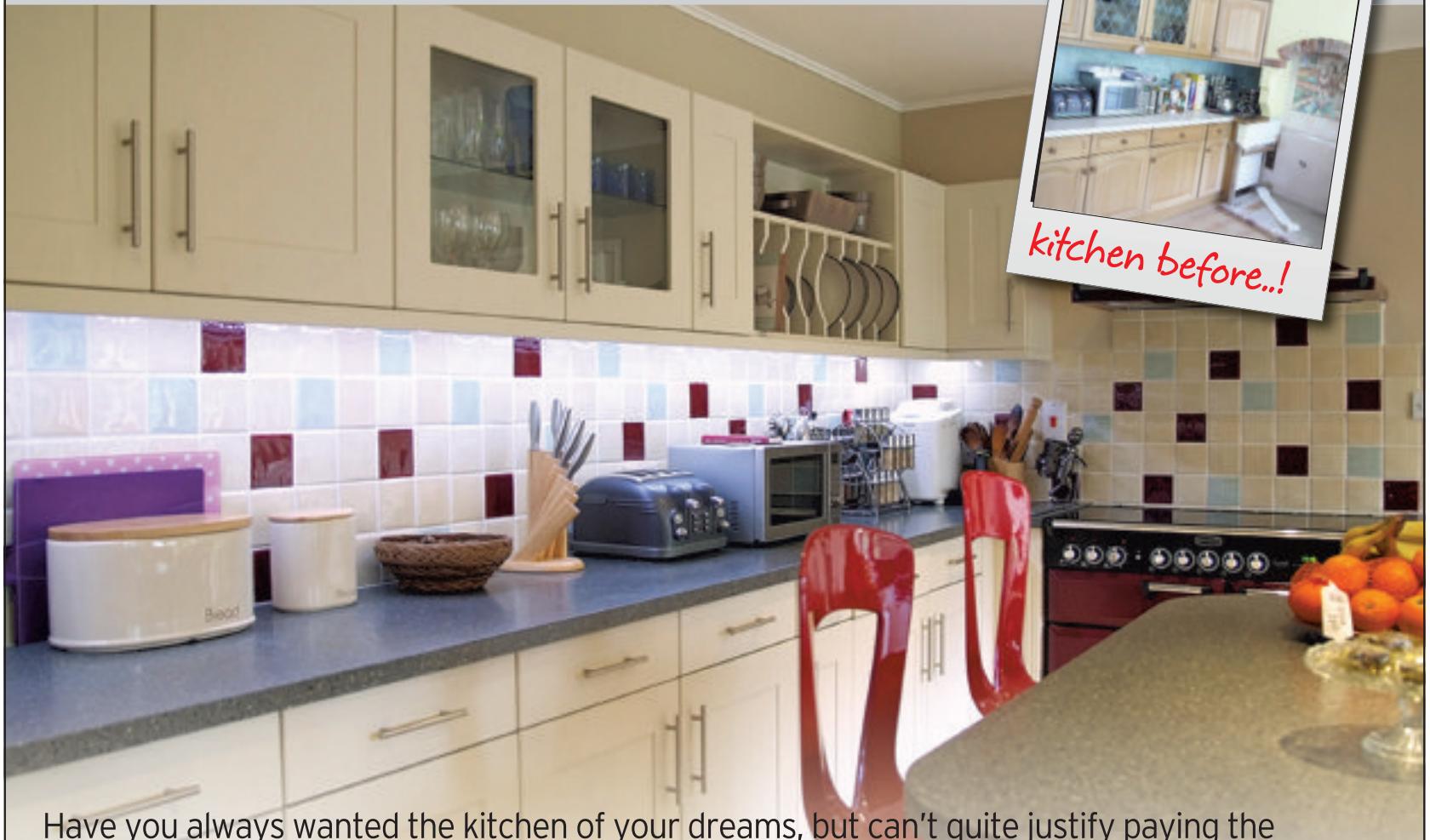
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	Steam Cubicles	Shower Valves	White Wood Panels	Wet Wall Screens from	Sliding Doors 1000 - 1200	Resin Trays from	Shower Heaters	Corner Bath & Panels	Basin Taps	Pedestals & Basins	White or Wood Toilet Seats
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3 days from £159.00 Departs 17 April, 22 May & 11 September 2015

Bath and Colours of the Cotswolds

Visit the wonderful city of Bath and explore The National Arboretum at Westonbirt, recently voted one of the thirty most unmissable sights in the world and at its best when ablaze with glorious Autumn colour. You'll also enjoy a tour of the rolling hills and honey coloured stone villages of the Cotswolds.

3 days from £169.00

Departs 23 October 2015

Easter in the German Valleys

A perfect springtime getaway to the glorious German Valleys! Breathtakingly beautiful, with winding rivers, fairytale castles, miles of vineyards and pretty riverside villages, it's an area just crying out to be explored. Welcoming accommodation and an exciting range of optional excursions will ensure a wonderful break in this beautiful region.

4 days from £189.00

Departs 2 April 2015

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This wonderful 'cruise and stay' holiday includes overnight sailings on board Brittany Ferries' splendid cruise-ferry, the Pont- Aven. With five nights in a seaside resort and a great selection of excursions, you can relax as well as discover the wonderful scenery of northern Spain, quite different from the Costas in the south.

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Departs 12 May & 29 September 2015

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Stunning coastal scenery, quaint villages and an old fashioned charm - a break on this unique holiday isle is always special. You'll enjoy two full day included excursions taking in such highlights as Alum Bay with its twenty one coloured sands, the Needles and the picture postcard village of Godshill and evening entertainment.

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Departs 1 June & 19 October 2015

Monet's Garden & Paris

Visits to Impressionist painter Claude Monet's beautiful house and gardens in the Normandy village of Giverny, and to incomparable Paris, are amongst the wonderful highlights of this hugely popular escorted tour, which also offers the opportunity to discover exquisite artists' village Barbizon, in the beautiful forest of Fontainebleau.

4 days from £189.50 Departs 12 June, 14 August & 2 October 2015

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Departs 17 April & 26 June 2015

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